

REMARKS

In further review and consideration of the Office Action mailed January 13, 2004, in reply to the Advisory Action mailed May 24, 2004, and supplemental to the Amendment and Reply filed April 9, 2004, applicants request entry and consideration of this Supplemental Amendment. Claims 1-45 were pending in the application, with claims 23-29 being provisionally withdrawn. No claims have been amended or newly added while claims 1-3, 6-14, and 17-22 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 4, 5, 15, 16, and 23-45 are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter and as requested in the Amendment filed on October 3, 2003 and April 9, 2004, applicants request that the examiner acknowledge the Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 28, 2001, and indicate whether the submitted reference is material as required under M.P.E.P. §724.

Applicants sincerely thank the examiner for indicating that claims 4, 5, 15, 16, and 30-45 are allowed.

This amendment deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicants request the rejoinder of claims 23-29 since method claim 23 includes all of the limitations of allowed product claim 4. See MPEP 821.04 and *In re Ochiai* which mandate rejoinder in this situation.

Claims 1-3, 6-14, and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. To expedite prosecution of this case, applicants have canceled these claims to moot this rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request entry of and reconsideration based on the instant Supplemental Amendment and Reply because it places the application in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding the application, or if an examiner's amendment would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone: (202) 945-6162

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Aaron C. Chatterjee

Richard L. Schwaab

Registration No. 25,479

Aaron C. Chatterjee

Registration No. 41,398

Attorneys for Applicants